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*December 2d.*

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty-eight members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

A Review of the Ferns of North America. By Elliott Coues.

Catalogue of the Miocene Shells of the Atlantic Slope of the United States. By T. A. Conrad.

Dr. I. I. Hayes made some remarks on some fragments of a supposed meteorite presented by him to the Academy. They were obtained from Savisavik, a little below Cape York, lat.  $76^{\circ}$  N. The mass was described by the Esquimaux as weighing several tons.

By resolution, the thanks of the Academy were tendered to Dr. I. I. Hayes for the very valuable series of specimens collected in his last Arctic Expedition and presented to the Academy.

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*December 9th.*

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Nineteen members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

Descriptions of new and recent Miocene Shells. By T. A. Conrad.

Remarks on some species of Paludina, Amnicola, Valvata and Melania. By James Lewis, M. D.

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*December 16th.*

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty members present.

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*December 23d.*

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty-three members present.

The following paper was presented for publication :

Description of Fossils from the Yellow Sandstone lying beneath the Burlington Limestone, &c. By Alexander Winchell."

Mr. Cassin communicated the fact that the Snow-Owl is at present unusually frequent in the vicinity of Philadelphia, more so than he had ever known it previously to be.

Dr. Hayes referred to his having discovered remains of the Musk Ox, in Greenland, from lat.  $78^{\circ}$  to  $78^{\circ} 20'$ , where the animal is now extinct. Specimens of these remains had been presented to the Academy. He also made some remarks on the extinction of the Esquimaux in Northern Greenland.

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*December 30th.*

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty-three members present.

[Dec.

On report of the Committee, the paper read Nov. 4th, entitled, "On the Pedipalpes of North America, by Horatio C. Wood, M. D.," was ordered to be published in the Journal; and, on report of the respective Committees, the following papers were ordered to be published in the Proceedings:

**Synopsis of the Species of COLYMBETES inhabiting America, north of Mexico.**

BY JOHN L. LE CONTE, M. D.

The number of known species of Colymbetes, with the elytra transversely striate (*Cymatopterus Esch.*) has been so increased within a few years that a synoptic table, expressing the differences between them, is now desirable; for the purpose of avoiding the necessity of reference to scattered descriptions, I have completed the table by adding the characters of the species belonging to the other divisions of the genus. The measurements are in decimals of an inch.

A. Elytra reticulate; claws of hind tarsi not very unequal in size (except in sp. 8).

a. Body convex, very finely reticulated; anterior and middle tarsi of male very feebly dilated: *ILYBIUS* Er.

§ Base of thorax broadly rounded.

·55. Black, slightly bronzed, oval, not dilated at the middle, less obtuse behind; elytra with the usual pale spots; outer hind claw two-thirds as long as the inner one. Middle States . . . . . 1. *ungularis* Lec.

·40—·45. Black, slightly bronzed, oval, very slightly dilated at the middle, less obtuse behind; elytra with the usual pale spots; outer hind claw three-fourths as long as the inner one. Middle, Southern and Western States, and Canada. *Dytiscus big.* Germ.; *Colymbetes fenestralis* || Say; var. *Il. pleuriticus* Lec. . . . . 2. *biguttulus* Lec.

·45. Black, slightly bronzed, oval, not dilated at the middle, scarcely less obtuse behind; elytra with the usual pale spots; the usual confused lines of punctures more distinct than in the two preceding species; outer hind claw three-fourths as long as the inner one. Oregon and Russian America. . . . . 3. *quadrinaculatus* Aubé.

·46. Var. ? Dark-bronzed color, a little more convex than No. 3, but with the lines of punctures on the elytra equally distinct; the anterior spot is longer than in No. 3. Methy; Robert Kennicott.

·42. Brownish-black, slightly bronzed, oval, slightly dilated at the middle, not less obtuse behind; thorax with the sides nearly straight; elytra with the anterior pale spot very small, the hind one wanting; lines of punctures visible only behind the middle. North Red River. . . . . 4. *fraterculus* Lec.

·37—·41. Black, slightly bronzed, oval, elongate, not dilated at the middle, somewhat less obtuse behind; elytra with the usual pale spots, the hind one quite large; lines of punctures visible only behind the middle. Nebraska. *Ilybius laramæus* Lec. . . . . 5. *laramæus* Lec.

·36. Black, slightly bronzed, elongate oval, not dilated at the middle, less obtuse behind; elytra with the usual pale spots not visible; confused lines of punctures quite distinct to the base. . . . . 6. *picipes* Kirby.

·36. Black, slightly bronzed, elongate oval, not dilated at the middle, not less obtuse behind; elytra with the pale spots very distinct; confused lines of punctures visible to the base; surface less convex and more finely reticulated than in *C. picipes*. . . . . 7. *ignarus* Lec.

§§ Base of thorax bisinuate, hind angles prolonged, acute.

·40. Elongate oval, less convex than usual, black, scarcely bronzed; series 1862.]